

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1664
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
SMUGGLING OF WILD LIFE ARTICLES
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the smuggling of wild life articles from the country is increasing over the years;
- (b) if so, total quantity of wild life articles seized during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (c) the number of cases registered against persons illegally possessing wild life articles during the said period, State-wise, the number of people arrested in this regard;
- (d) the number of such cases pending in courts in the country, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of wild life articles?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) Instances of large scale smuggling of wildlife articles, indicating increasing trend in the smuggling of wildlife articles from the country over the years, has not been brought to the notice of this Ministry. However, considering the lucrative prices and demand for wildlife products in the clandestine international markets, the possibility of smuggling of wildlife and its derivatives cannot be ruled out completely.

(c) & (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of wildlife articles are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime.
2. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes—Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State /UT Governments for the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats.
5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.
7. India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking, which is an international forum working against wildlife crime.